



A REPORT ON THE
ACTIONS OF THE
GEORGIA GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
2013



FY2013 Amended Budget



- Cuts recommended by the Governor to Ag Ed, CTAE, CIS, GHP, and RESA's reduced by half (or more)
- No reduction in sparsity grants
- LFMS adjusted by \$6.6 million (all related to charter school funding)
- \$167 million add for enrollment growth, special needs vouchers, state special charter school funding (HB797), and charter systems
- \$130k add for state charter school commission administration
- **AUSTERITY CUTS STILL IN PLACE!!!**



FY2014 Budget



- Cuts recommended by Governor to Ag Ed, CTAE, GHP, and RESA's **reduced**
- Many, many **transfers** of funds (e.g., Reading Mentors program technology to GOSA, administration funds related to various divisions from central office to the specific programs)
- \$335K reduction in funds for charter facility grants (\$ still available for local start-up charter schools)
- Sparsity grant funding restored (\$2.6 M)
- **AUSTERITY CUTS STILL THERE!!!**



FY2014 Budget (cont'd.)



- \$291K funds added to SPED funding for students in residential treatment centers
- NO CUT to school nutrition
- \$38 million to “fully fund” the new equalization formula (Note: 14% decline in state average wealth per FTE over last two years!!)
- \$5.2 million adjustment in LFMS (again, related to charter school funding)



FY2014 Budget (cont'd.)



- More funds for nurses (\$2.6 million) and professional learning (\$759K), **but a one-year reduction in funds for counselors (\$899K, related to changes in counselor/student ratios)**
- \$146.5 million to cover anticipated enrollment growth
- **Transfer of \$15.39 per FTE from central administration to classroom technology (hold harmless for smallest 18 systems)**
- Elimination of Governor's recommended cut of \$1.28 million in ETC funds (returned to RESA's)
- \$7.2 million added for charter system grants (per HB283)



FY2014 Budget (cont'd.)



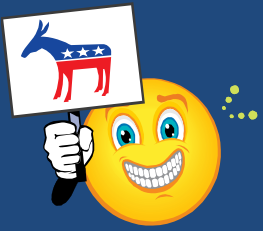
- The bond package
 - All capital outlay programs/requests funded at the 100% level
 - \$7 million in grants to improve technology infrastructure (Rules from DOE soon)
 - \$3.6 million to purchase vocational equipment
 - \$20 million to purchase buses (80% of amount bonded in previous years)



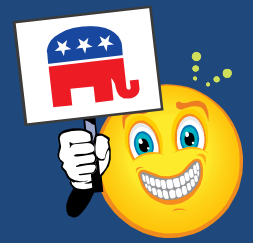
FY2014 Budget (cont'd.)



- The “**biggie:**” **Health insurance**
 - Employer’s rate set for 2013-14 is \$945 PMPM
 - DCH required to announce “range” of anticipated MID-YEAR increase for 2013-14 by MAY 15 (final number would be included in Governor’s FY2014 Amended Budget recommendations and would be **effective in March, 2014**)
 - \$83 million “freed up” by this move, which will be applied so as to **reduce austerity cuts** to local systems (but, mid-year increase in employer’s share may well fall entirely on local systems)



LEGISLATION



- HB70 – provides an opportunity for some medically fragile students to use the Special Needs Voucher without meeting the 1-year public school attendance requirement (waiver must be granted by SBOE)
- HB 284 – “Return to Play” Act, requiring each LBOE to adopt a policy on how to handle concussion-related injuries in athletes, provide information to parents, and prohibit a return to play of an injured athlete until he/she is cleared by a medical professional



LEGISLATION (cont'd.)



- HB 131 – dual credit courses count the same as IB and AP for HOPE eligibility purposes
- HB372 – 2.0 GPA maintains eligibility for HOPE grant at technical colleges
- SB115 – students in residential treatment centers no longer counted in local system's accountability scores
- SB212 – all students receive “training” in CPR during required high school health course
- HB 337 – schools may stockpile epi-pens based on a prescription written by a doctor *to the school*



LEGISLATION (cont'd.)



- SB100 – re-establishes the Career and Technical Education Advisory Commission
- HB115 – lengthens the number of days (to 90) that the SBOE has to hear complaints about LBOE's accreditation issues (plus, permits deliberations in executive session)
- HB116 – creates the Georgia Foundation for Public Education
- HB382 – limits the liability of a LBOE that has entered into a joint-use-of-facilities agreement with a local entity



LEGISLATION (cont'd.)



- HB211 – exempts local school systems from motor fuel excise taxes on fuel purchased *for buses only* until June 30, 2015.
- HB244 – the “**teacher evaluation**” legislation, resulting from the process developed by systems involved in the Race to the Top grant.
 - Evaluates both teachers and building leaders
 - Requires multiple observations, walk-throughs, etc., with mandatory feedback deadlines
 - Changes dual rating system to one with four categories
 - **Requires that 50% of the evaluation be based on student growth on academic indicators**
 - **To be effective beginning with the 2014-15 school year** (after more field testing during 2013-14)



LEGISLATION (cont'd.)



- HB283 – the “Christmas tree” bill with the following ornaments:
 - Deletes a number of sections of Title 20 deemed to be obsolete and clears up a deadline for IE2 systems
 - Adds a section specific to Sumter County (should have been local legislation)
 - Makes a number of language changes (e.g., CTAE replaces “vocational education” throughout)
 - Revises QBE weights (mostly related to new method of calculating employer’s cost for health insurance)
 - Eliminates “middle grades” program funding (all get “middle school” funding)
 - Caps charter system grants to a single system in a single year at \$4.5 million (intended to lessen fiscal impact of larger systems becoming charter systems)



HB283 (cont'd.)



- Establishes new student/counselor ratio at 1:450 and new student/school psychologist one at 1:2420
- Deletes requirement that LBOE's notify DOE and colleges of vacancies
- Clarifies that RESA Boards of Control do not have to meet LBOE training requirements
- Creates a grant program for technology upgrades in local systems (\$7 million allocated in FY2014; rules to be set by DOE)
- Changes/simplifies parents' responsibility for notifying DOE of intent to home school student(s)



HB283 (cont'd.)



- Extends from 60 to 90 days the length of time a LBOE has to respond to a charter petition
- Allows use of “20 extra days” funds during school day
- Requires that enrollment preference for a charter school be given to pre-K and K students, if any, at that charter school
- Includes new charter system language emphasizing school-level governance
- Creates (yet another) new foundation (under GOSA?) to accept donations to support public education



HB283 (cont'd.)



- Contents of SB243 included
 - Addresses issues raised over Georgia's "Tax Credit Scholarship" (aka, voucher) program
 - Requires voucher recipients to have first been enrolled in public school (only for six weeks, with some exceptions)
 - Raises the amount that SSO's must spend on the vouchers (rather than on administration)
 - Caps donations at \$58 million (no automatic, inflationary increase)



YET TO COME.....



- Changes to funding formula/mechanism???
- Flexibility/accountability legislation (stalled in Senate this year)
- State “control” over local systems where student academic performance is low???
- Elected local superintendents???
- Parent trigger legislation (also stalled in Senate this year)???
- Guns in schools???